

Appl. No.: 10/030,679

Filed: January 11, 2002

Page 2

Amendments to the Claims:

1 – 24 (Cancelled)

25. (Withdrawn) A plant for manufacturing a building panel comprising a track (54) for the movement of carrier devices (51) for the molds forming the façade panel (21) on which there are situated sequentially according to the operative stages required for the manufacture of the façade panel (21), a number of work stations which, defined by the means and/or members pertaining to the work stage proper thereto are listed in order below:

- (a) means for cleaning the molds, appropriate for removing any mortar and mold stripper remains,
- (b) means for changing the molds, to be used when the panel to be manufactured has different features from those of the panel which has been stripped from the mold, which are complemented by shelving for use as a mold store,
- (c) means for applying a mold stripping product over the entire molding surface,
- (d) means for spraying a thin layer of a first resin (gel-coat) which waterproofs and enhances the pattern of the visible face of the panel,
- (e) a tunnel with shelving for storing the molds in the carriers thereof, in stand-by for the curing of the resin sprayed in the molds and/or for the following operation on the mold,
- (f) means for spraying a thin layer of a second anchor resin on the first resin layer,
- (g) means for spraying a layer of coarse sand on the second resin layer, so as partly to incrust the coarse grains of sand in the resin and for removing the sand not adhering thereto;
- (h) a tunnel with shelving for storage of the carriers bearing the molds charged with both resins and the coarse grains of sand incrustated in the second resin, in stand-by for the curing of the second resin and/or the following operation,
- (i) means for pouring cement mortar which is prepared from the cement, aggregate, water and additives drawn from silos adjacent the station,

RTA01/21501HHv1

Appl. No.: 10/030,679

Filed: January 11, 2002

Page 3

- (j) means for placing the reinforcement in the cement mortar and, optionally, a suspension cable for the panel anchored in said reinforcement,
- (k) a tunnel kiln with shelving for the setting of the cement mortar, and
- (l) mold stripping means and shelving for stacking the finished panels.

26. (Withdrawn) The plant of claim 25, wherein when the resins in the façade panel (21) are not used, the sequence of operative work stations is reduced to the following:

means for cleaning (a) the molding surfaces, appropriate for

removing any mortar and mold stripper remains,

means for applying (c) a mold stripping product over the entire molding surface,

a tunnel with shelving (h) for storing the molds in the carrier devices thereof, in stand-by for the following operation,

means for pouring (i) cement mortar, which is prepared from the cement, aggregate, water and additives drawn from silos adjacent the station,

means for placing (j) the reinforcement in the cement mortar and, optionally, a suspension cable anchored in said reinforcement,

a tunnel kiln (k) for the setting of the cement mortar, and

mold stripping means (l) and shelving for stacking the finished panels.

27. (Withdrawn) The plant of claim 25, wherein the track (54) is disposed in closed circuit form.

28. (Withdrawn) The plant of claim 27, wherein the track (54A, 54B) is disposed on a horizontal plane.

29. (Withdrawn) The plant of claim 27, wherein the track (54) is disposed in divided form on two superimposed parallel planes.

RTA01/2150188v1

Appl. No.: 10/030,679

Filed: January 11, 2002

Page 4

30. (Withdrawn) The plant of claims 27, 28 and 29, which is constituted by two substantially parallel straight portions (54A, 54B) connected at the ends thereof by a work station (h) and/or transport means (55).

31. (Withdrawn) The plant of claims 25 and 26, wherein the shelving tunnels (a, k) are provided with means for heating and/or stacking the loaded mold carriers.

32. (Withdrawn) The plant of claim 25, wherein the track (54) is constituted by a rotary roller path, some of which are motorized.

33. (Currently Amended) A building façade panel adapted to operably engage and close a latticework support structure having uprights connected by horizontal crossmembers, said panel comprising:

a slab comprised of an air-setting resistant material and having opposed faces, one face comprising a visible face defining a molded pattern; and

reinforcement means having a portion embedded within the slab and extending outwardly thereof so as to form an outwardly accessible portion, the portion embedded within the slab being configured to extend through the slab, away from the visible face, and then outwardly of the other face of the slab as the outwardly accessible portion, the outwardly accessible portion defining a spine configured to oppose and operably engage a corresponding spine defined by the latticework support structure when the panel is attached thereto, the reinforcement means being adapted to reinforce the slab and to allow the slab to be attached to the latticework support structure such that the panel covers the latticework support structure.

34. (Cancelled)

RTA01/2150188v1

Appl. No.: 10/030,679

Filed: January 11, 2002

Page 5

35. (Previously presented) A panel according to Claim 33 wherein the air-setting resistant material is selected from the group consisting of cement concrete, cement mortar, resin mortar, mixed mortar, normal synthetic resin, lightened synthetic resin, and combinations thereof.

36. (Previously presented) A panel according to Claim 33 wherein the reinforcement means further comprises a channel having a cross-section including an open end and a closed end, the open end being defined by opposing flanges and comprising the portion embedded in the slab.

37. (Previously presented) A panel according to Claim 36 wherein the portion of the reinforcement means embedded in the slab further defines a plurality of apertures configured to allow the air-setting resistant material to pass therethrough so as to facilitate securement of the reinforcement means within the slab.

38. (Previously presented) A panel according to Claim 33 wherein the reinforcement means further comprises a plurality of metal sections disposed with respect to the slab so as to form a frame arrangement therefor.

39. (Previously presented) A panel according to Claim 38 further comprising a plurality of corrugated rods extending between the metal sections of the frame arrangement for facilitating securement of the reinforcement means within the slab.

40. (Previously presented) A panel according to Claim 33 further comprising a resilient, resistant filiform member operably engaged with the reinforcement means and configured to secure the panel to the latticework support structure.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A panel according to Claim 41 ~~33~~ further comprising a mechanical fixation means for securing the spines together.

RTA01/215018HV1

Appl. No.: 10/030,679

Filed: January 11, 2002

Page 6

43. (Currently Amended) A panel according to Claim 41 ~~33~~ wherein the outwardly accessible portion further comprises a channel having a U-shaped cross-section with an open end, the channel extending from the spine of the outwardly accessible portion such that the open end is downwardly oriented and configured to operably engage a flange extending upwardly from the spine of the latticework support structure.

44. (Currently Amended) A panel according to Claim 41 ~~33~~ wherein the outwardly accessible portion further comprises a flange extending downwardly from the spine of the outwardly accessible portion, the flange being configured to operably engage a channel having a U-shaped cross-section with an open end, the channel extending from the spine of the latticework support structure such that the open end is upwardly oriented.

45. (Previously presented) A panel according to Claim 33 wherein the reinforcement means extends outwardly from the slab so as to form a side thereof.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Presented) A building façade panel system adapted to operably engage and close a latticework support structure having uprights connected by horizontal crossmembers, said system comprising:

a plurality of panels, each panel defining an edge and comprising:

a slab comprised of an air-setting resistant material and having opposed faces;

Appl. No.: 10/030,679

Filed: January 11, 2002

Page 7

a surface layer operably engaged with the slab and substantially covering one face of the slab, the surface layer defining a pattern having a plurality of relief elements, the pattern including a depression disposed about the edge; and reinforcement means having a portion embedded within the slab and extending outwardly thereof so as to form an outwardly accessible portion, the outwardly accessible portion being configured to extend away from the one face and outwardly of the other face of the slab, the reinforcement means being adapted to reinforce the slab and to allow the slab to be attached to the latticework support structure such that the panel covers the latticework support structure; and

an insert configured as a relief element, the insert being capable of being inserted into a receptacle defined by corresponding depressions of juxtaposed panels and thereby providing continuation of the pattern on the surface layer between panels and covering a joint between the juxtaposed panels defined by the respective edges thereof.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Cancelled)

53. (New) A panel according to Claim 33 wherein the spine defined by the outwardly accessible portion is configured to oppose and operably engage the corresponding spine defined by the latticework support structure such that the outwardly accessible portion spine hangs from the latticework support structure spine when the panel is attached to the latticework support structure.

RTA01/2150188v1

Appl. No.: 10/030,679

Filed: January 11, 2002

Page 8

54. (New) A system according to Claim 49 wherein the reinforcement means is configured to be attached to the latticework support structure such that the slab hangs therefrom.

RTA01/2150188v1